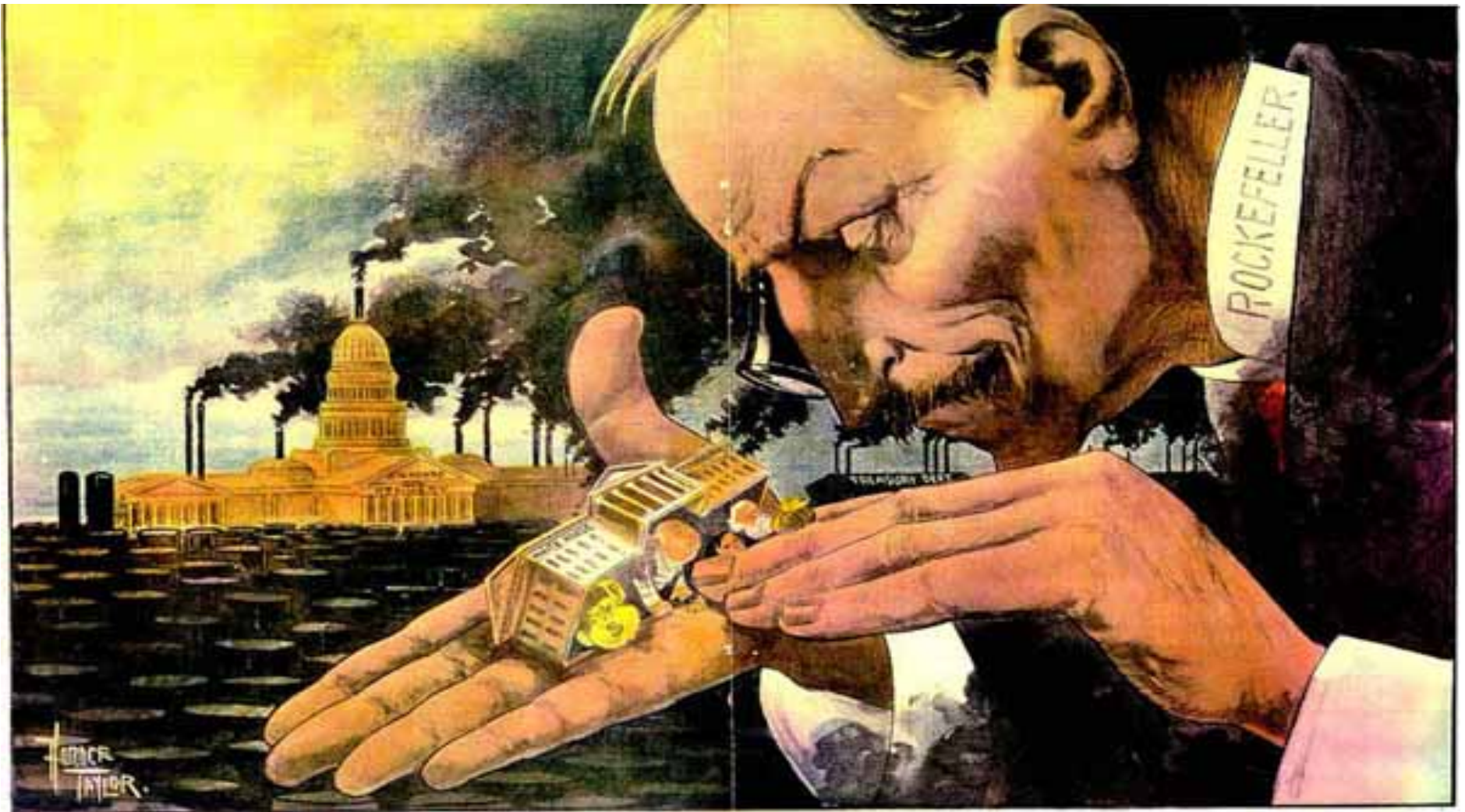


Industry and the Gilded Age



THE TRUST GIANTS POINT OF VIEW.
"WHAT A FUNNY LITTLE GOVERNMENT!"

The Horatio Alger Question

On a scale of 1-10 (1 being “completely disagree” and 10 being “completely agree”), what is your position on the following statement:

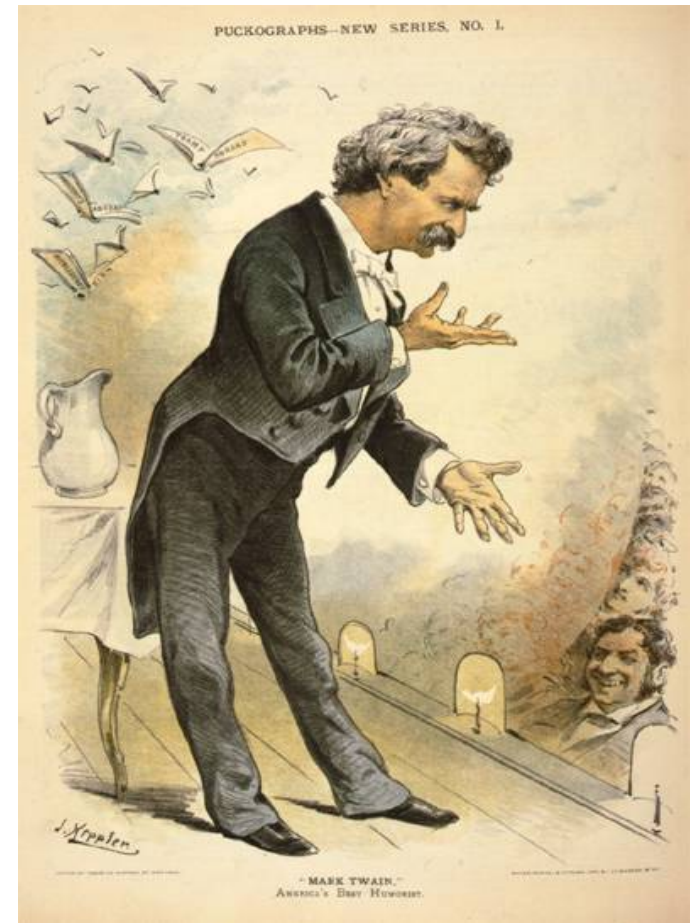
“In the United States, if you work hard and make wise decisions, you will be successful”

(The opposite position would be that financial success is mostly predetermined by your family, who you know, what school you attend, etc.)

Gilded: Covered in gold, but not valuable on the inside

Gilded Age: Time period in the late 1800's when new economic developments created more wealth (for some) than had ever existed in the U.S.

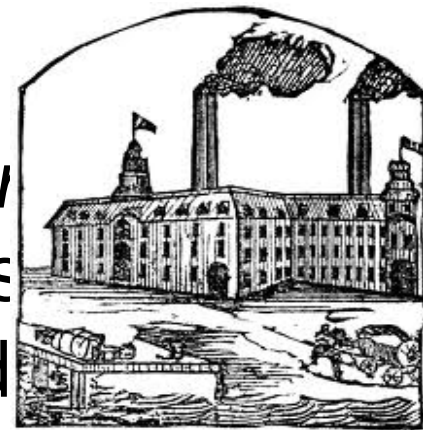
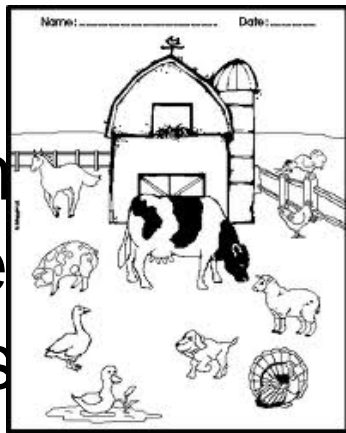
The author Mark Twain gave the time period this name to criticize the great divide that emerged between the rich and poor.



How was so much wealth created?

Industrialization: when the economy becomes dominated by manufacturing rather than agriculture

This change was done in cities with *how and when* industrial centers in countryside and cities.



- **Railroads** stretch to cover the entire country
- **Steel** (for rail, bridge, and building construction)
- **Coal** (to power trains, boats, factories, and mills)
- **Oil** drilling takes off in the West

In what new ways did these businesses operate?

Sweatshops: factory with low wages, long working hours, and poor working conditions

Company towns: when one major company dominated the surrounding area where its workers lived

- Company-owned housing
- Workers paid in “scrip” that could be used at the company-owned store
- Example: The town of Pullman, Illinois was built and owned by the Pullman Railroad Car Company

How was the nation's economy run?

Expansion of **capitalism**: economic system in which businesses are privately owned, run to make a profit, and compete in a free marketplace

- Cost of goods, services, and wages is determined by laws of supply and demand
- Business leaders took advantage of a lack of government regulation (***laissez-faire capitalism***)
 - They created **trusts** (where several large corporations combine to dominate an industry)
 - This allowed them eliminate competitors and keep costs (such as wages) very low.

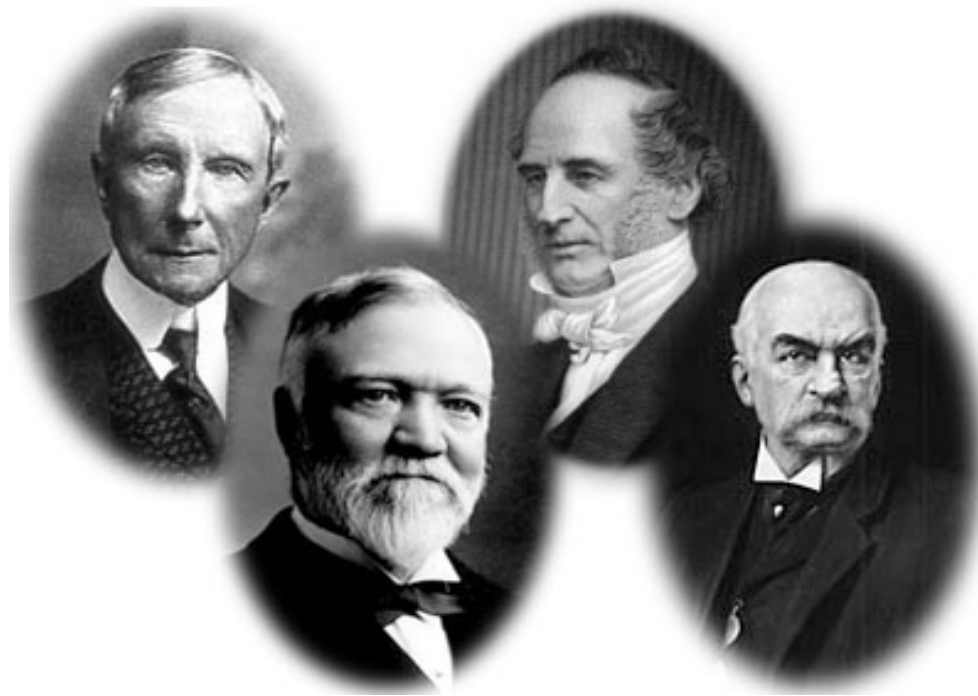
Who were the “winners” of the Gilded Age?

Due to their ruthless business tactics and great wealth, these men were called “**Robber Barons**”

John D.
Rockefeller

Standard
Oil

Andrew
Carnegie:
Carnegie
Steel



Cornelius
Vanderbilt:
Railroads

J.P. Morgan:
U.S. Steel
and
banking

Justifying their wealth...

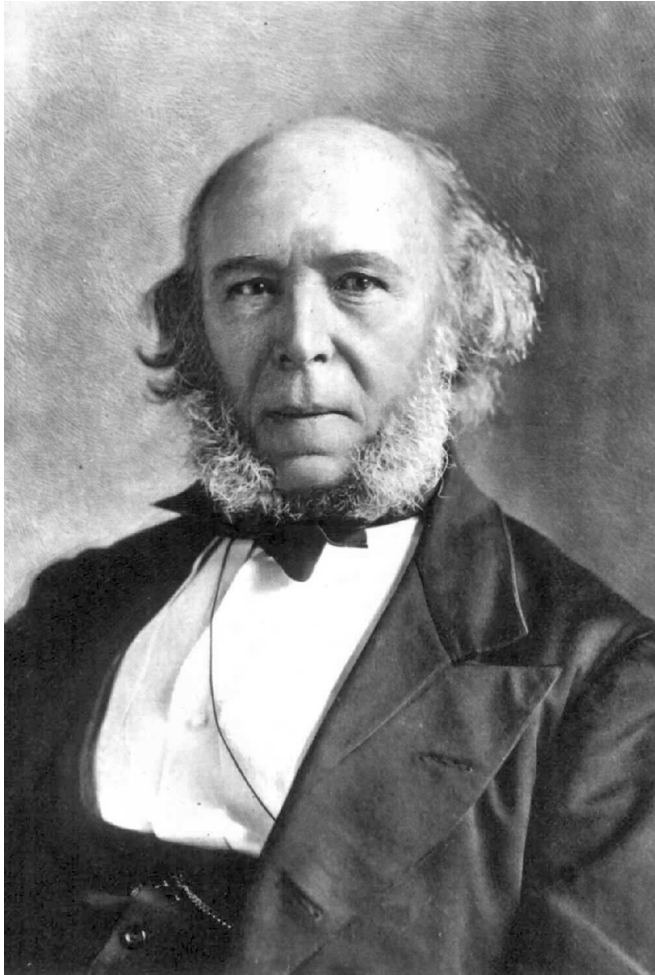
Andrew Carnegie's *Gospel of Wealth*

- Article he wrote in 1899
- Unrestrained capitalism will reward the best and most virtuous people
- They should use their great wealth to benefit society

John D. Rockefeller:

"I believe the power to make money is a gift of God . . . to be developed and used to the best of our ability for the good of mankind. Having been endowed with the gift I possess, I believe it is my duty to make money and still more money, and to use the money I make for the good of my fellow man according to the dictates of my conscience."

Social Darwinism



Herbert Spencer

Influential British philosopher from the late
1800's

- The idea that “survival of the fittest” applied to human society
- Human society advances when its “fittest members” are allowed to thrive
- “Fitness” is determined by inherited characteristics
- Gov't should not take any steps to support the “unfit”

Images of the Gilded Age

- How did people live during this time period?
- How do the homes of the industrialist “robber barons” compare to the scenes of the “other half” in the photos by Jacob Riis and Lewis Hine?



Vanderbilt Mansion: Hyde Park, New York

Cornelius Vanderbilt made his fortune in railroads and was at one point the richest person in the world. This was his grandson's house.



The Breakers mansion

Newport, Rhode Island

This “summer cottage” belonged to another of Vanderbilt's grandchildren. Today it is a museum and you can tour the inside and the grounds.



Biltmore Estate: Asheville, North Carolina
Also built for the Vanderbilt family, it has 250 rooms!

How did “The Other Half” Live?



Jacob Riis, “Dens of Death”



Riis, "Eldridge Street Police Station Lodgers"



Riis, "In a Sweatshop"



Riis, "In Poverty Gap, an English Coal-Heaver's Home"



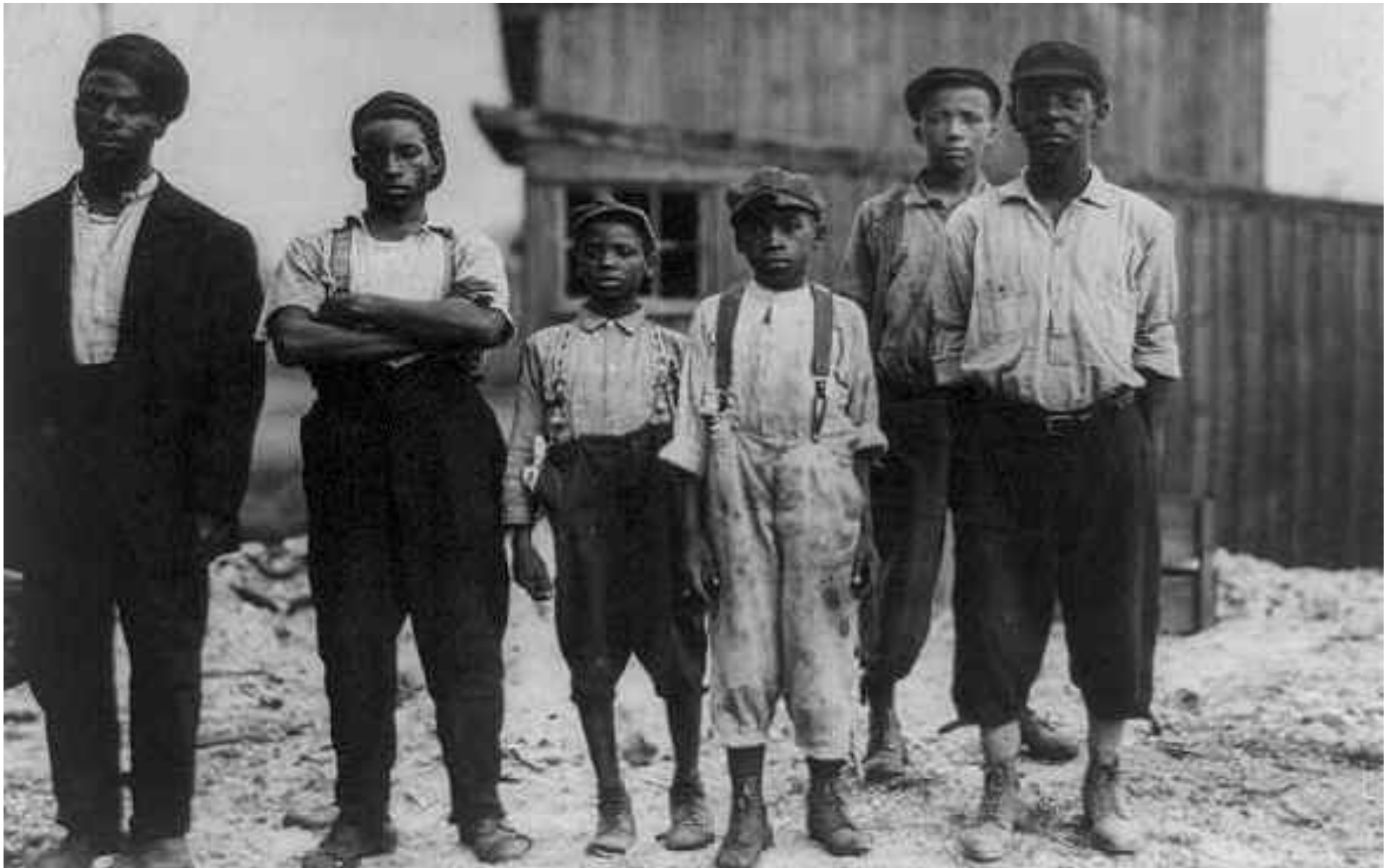
Riis, "It Costs a Dollar a Month to Sleep in These Sheds"



Lewis Hine, "Breaker Boys"



Hine, "Little Spinner Girl," Augusta, GA (1909)



Hine, "Glassworks"



Hine, "A Young Glassworker"



Hine: Avondale Mills in Birmingham, AL (1910)



Hine: Fish cutters at a Canning Co in Maine. Ages range from 7 to 12. They live near the factory. The 7 year old boy in front, Byron Hamilton, has a badly cut finger but helps his brother regularly. Behind him is his brother George, age 11, who cut his finger half off while working. Ralph, on the left, displays his knife and also a badly cut finger. They and many youngsters said they were always cutting themselves. George earns a \$1 some days, usually 75 cents. Some of the others say they earn a \$1 when they work all day. At times they start at 7 a.m. and work all day until midnight.

- **"SIXTEEN TONS" By Merle Travis**
- Some people say a man is made out of mud
- A poor man's made out of muscle and blood
- Muscle and blood, skin and bones...
- A mind that's weak and a back that's strong
- ---
- **Chorus** You load sixteen tons, and what do you get?
- another day older and deeper in debt
- St. Peter, don't you call me, 'cause I can't go
- I owe my soul to the company store
- ---
- I was born one mornin' and the sun didn't shine
- I picked up my shovel and I walked to the mine
- I loaded sixteen tons of number nine coal and
- the straw boss said, "well bless my soul!"
-you loaded...
- **(Chorus)**
- ---
- I was born one mornin' it was drizzlin' rain
- fightin' and trouble are my middle name
- I was raised in a cane-brake by an old mama lion
- can't no high-toned woman make me walk no line
- **(Chorus)**
- ---
- If you see me comin', better step aside
- A lot of men didn't, a lot of men died
- One fist of iron, the other of steel
- If the right one don't get you, then the left one will
- **(Chorus)**
- ---
- You load sixteen tons, and what do you get?
- Another day older and deeper in debt
- St. Peter don't you call me, 'cause I can't go
- I owe my soul to the company store
- **"Sixteen Tons" / Copyright / Merle's Girls Music ~ All Rights Reserved**

Works Used

- Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. <http://www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/wwwlps/lessons/78vanderbilt/78visual2.htm>
- Biltmore Estate. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biltmore_Estate.
- Documenting “The Other Half”: The Social Reform Photographs of Jacob Riis and Lewis Hines. <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~ma01/davis/photography/images/riisphotos/slideshow1.html>.
- The History Place – Child Labor in America, 1908-1912. <http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/childlabor/>.
- Tennessee Ernie Ford, *Sixteen Tons*. Lyrics written by Merle Travis. <http://www.ernieford.com/SixteenTons.htm>.